A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 B01L3/00 G01N31/22

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According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC **B. FIELDS SEARCHED** Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) BO1L GO1N IPC 7. B65D Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) WPI Data, PAJ, EPO-Internal C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Category ° Relevant to claim No. X US 3 620 676 A (DAVIS WARD BENJAMIN) 1 - 15ΑD 16 November 1971 (1971-11-16) the whole document X EP 0 803 288 A (KYOTO DAIICHI KAGAKU KK) 1 - 1529 October 1997 (1997-10-29) column 1, line 12 -column 4, line 29 column 12, line 33 -column 13, line 15 examples 1,2 Α US 3 768 978 A (GRUBB J ET AL) 1 - 1530 October 1973 (1973-10-30) AC figures 1-5 column 3-4 Patent family members are listed in annex. Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. . Special categories of cited documents: "T"-later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the 'A' document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance "E" earlier document but published on or after the international "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention filing date cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention citation or other special reason (as specified) cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such docudocument referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means ments, such combination being obvious to a person skilled document published prior to the international filing date but in the art. later than the priority date claimed "&" document member of the same patent family Date of the actual completion of the international search Date of mailing of the international search report 5 February 2004 16/02/2004 Name and mailing address of the ISA Authorized officer European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl. Michalitsch, R Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

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